

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 2-4, 8-9, and 12-17 are cancelled, and claim 18 is added. Claims 1, 5-7, and 10-11 remain in this application as amended herein. Accordingly, claims 1, 5-7, 10-11, and 18 are submitted for the Examiner's reconsideration.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1 and 7 because of informalities. Claims 1 and 7 are corrected accordingly.

As to the art rejection, claims 1-2, 4-7, and 10-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Sullivan (U.S. Patent No. 6,069,647). Claims 2 and 4 are cancelled. Applicant submits that the remaining claims are patentably distinguishable over Sullivan.

The relied on sections of Sullivan describe an interface unit that receives encrypted digital content from an input unit and delivers encrypted digital content to a transmission unit. The relied on sections of Sullivan neither disclose nor suggest that the transmission unit relays encrypted digital content to a further device and neither disclose nor suggest that the transmission unit carries out any other communications with a further device. Hence, the relied on sections of Sullivan do not disclose or suggest a second electronic transmission apparatus as defined in claim 1.

It follows that the relied on sections of Sullivan do not disclose or suggest the combination defined in claim 1 and thus do not anticipate the claim.

Claims 5-6 depend from claim 1 and are distinguishable over Sullivan for at least the same reasons.

Independent claim 7 includes limitations similar to those set out in claim 1 and, for at least the same reasons, is

distinguishable over Sullivan.

Claims 10 and 11 depend from claim 7 and are distinguishable over the cited reference for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) is respectfully requested.

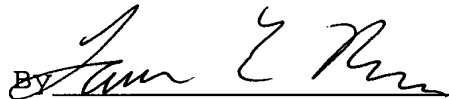
New claim 18 depends from claim 7 and is distinguishable over the cited art for at least the same reasons. Support for new claim 18 is found, e.g., in Fig. 5 and on page 17 of the specification.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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